Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Committee Minutes



Woollahra Council via ZOOM Tuesday 5 May, 5.00pm

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Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 5 May, 5.00pm Via ZOOM

1 PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present: Councillor Anthony Marano Chair

Lucinda Regan Councillor

Professor Ian Howard Arts Industry Representative
Stella Downer Arts Industry Representative
Elizabeth Hastings Arts Industry Representative
Christopher Dawson Community Representative
Karin Olah Community Representative

Staff: Jo Jansyn Cultural Development Coordinator

Lynn Garlick Director Community Services

Apologies: Nick Maxwell Councillor

Alison Renwick Arts Industry Representative
Ali Yeldham Arts Industry Representative
Bernard Curran Community Representative

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

All matters arising from previous minutes to be addressed in this meeting. Moved: Christopher Dawson Seconded: Elizabeth Hastings

3 PROGRESS REPORTS

3.1 **Judges**

The 2020 Prize judges are: Lara Strongman, Director Curatorial and Digital at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia; Australian style pioneer and internationally acclaimed artist and designer Jenny Kee AO; and art historian, writer and lecturer, Joanna Capon OAM. The Committee noted that this was a strong, all female judging group.

3.2 General Project Update

In 2020, the main prize money will increase to \$25,000 along with entry fee to \$50 as the Prize was proposed to move to the Art Gallery. This recommendation was put to Council in December 2018, with Council accepting the recommendation.

The Call for Entries was delayed by one month due to uncertainty around COVID-19 restrictions and commenced on 1 May. The Call Out message predominantly occurs via social media, free web listings and the large E-News subscriber base and is supported by some paid advertising in Art Almanac. Call for Entries information has already been heavily shared and there are entries submitted.

It is still anticipated that the exhibition will be held in the new Art Gallery, subject to social distancing restrictions.

The Committee asked about the progress of the new Art Gallery with the Director Community Services reporting that the building completion is expected for September. If the Art Gallery is unavailable, there is an option for the exhibition to be staged in the Thornton Room of Council as per previous years.

3.3 **Sponsorship**

Michael McMahon, a sponsor of the Prize since 2014, sadly passed away last week and the Committee acknowledged his generous support. The Chair also mentioned that Michael's support of the Prize was mentioned at the full Council meeting on 4 May.

The Committee agreed that approaches to sponsors in 2020 was best done when some more concrete news of restrictions lifting was known in approximately three to four weeks' time.

Action: Cultural Development Coordinator to circulate updated sponsorship documents to the Committee.

Action: The Chair, Committee and Cultural Development Coordinator will pursue sponsorship contacts as discussed.

3.4 **Publicity Development**

The Cultural Development Coordinator approached our long term PR agency for a brief for continuing their service for the 2020 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize. A proposal was submitted however it was decided to conduct the first stage of promotion around the Call for Entries in house, as there are currently no solid exhibition dates. The PR proposal can be re-visited when more information is known about easing of social distancing restrictions.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 **COVID-19** and the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize

The Committee began a discussion on parameters around staging the exhibition as social distancing restrictions begin to ease. As this is the 20th anniversary year for the Prize, there are still opportunities to potentially create smaller, intimate nights. The Committee requested information to be circulated that included pros and cons of virtual exhibitions, postponing exhibitions and moving exhibition to next year including a breakdown of demographics that usually attend the launch night. This information will be discussed at a newly scheduled meeting for 2 June in light of any new information gleaned on COVID -19 restrictions lifting.

Action: Cultural Development Coordinator to circulate some options for staging the exhibition inclusive of information on demographics of exhibition attendees.

Action: Committee to meet again via ZOOM in four weeks' time (2 June)

Next meeting: Tuesday 2 June 2020, 5pm via ZOOM.